

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #68-13-4 Building Date: 1912, 1920

Building Name: Unsworth-Park Building

Location: 3807-3811 34th Street, Mt. Rainier

Private/Commercial/Occupied/Good/Accessible

Description

3807-3809-3811 34th Street is a two-story, three-bay rectangular plan frame commercial building with an east (rear) sloping shed roof. It is the first building in a grouping of three attached shed-roof commercial buildings stepping up the slope of 34th street. The main (west) facade is sheathed with asbestos shingles and the horizontal parapet is surmounted by a painted wood or metal dentilled, crown-molded cornice with corner brackets. The center bay of the first story contains three single door entrances. The middle entry leads to a second story apartment. The north and south entries lead to separate storefronts, and are flanked by large, plate glass show windows that are old but probably not original. The show windows are shaded by aluminum awnings. The second story is fenestrated with three 1/1 double-hung sash windows spaced evenly across the facade that are shaded by aluminum awnings.

Significance:

The two-story commercial building at 3807-3809-3811 34th Street is significant as an example of mixed-use construction that contributes to the early 20th century character of the Mt. Rainier. It is architecturally significant as the first in a grouping of three attached early 20th century commercial structures arranged in stair step fashion on the slope of 34th street. Lot 20 was improved by 1912, with two small one-story storefronts. These early improvements were probably made by Thomas H. Unsworth who had purchased the lot in May of 1912. The building's present two-story structure represents either an expansion of the early improvements or its replacement with a larger building, sometime after 1920. The historic commercial use of the two first story storefronts is not known at this time.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G.#68-13-4

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Unsworth-Park Building

and/or common 3807 - 3809 - 3811 34th Street,

2. Location

street & number 3807 - 3809 - 3811 34th Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Mt. Rainier ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Je Bom & Mee Yong Park

street & number 3809 34th Street telephone no.:

city, town Mt. Rainier state and zip code Maryland 20712

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6119

street & number Main Street folio 770

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Historic Sites and Districts Plan

date 1981 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Commission, Room 4010, C.A.B.

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #68-13-4

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

3807-3809-3811 34th Street is a two-story, three-bay rectangular plan frame commercial building with an east (rear) sloping shed roof (see Slide #45). It is the first building in a grouping of three attached shed-roof commercial buildings stepping up the slope of 34th street. The main (west) facade is sheathed with asbestos shingles and the horizontal parapet is surmounted by a painted wood or metal dentilled, crown-molded cornice with corner brackets. The center bay of the first story contains three single door entrances. The middle entry leads to a second story apartment. The north and south entries lead to separate storefronts, and are flanked by large, plate glass show windows that are old but probably not original. The show windows are shaded by aluminum awnings. The second story is fenestrated with three 1/1 double-hung sash windows spaced evenly across the facade that are shaded by aluminum awnings.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#68-13-4

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

CONTRIBUTING

The two-story commercial building at 3807-3809-3811 34th Street (Block 1, Lot 20, Rhode Island Avenue Addition to Mt. Rainier) is significant as an example of mixed-use construction that contributes to the early 20th century character of the Mt. Rainier downtown area. It is architecturally significant as the first building in a grouping of three attached early 20th century commercial structures arranged in stair step fashion on the slope of 34th street.

Lot 20 was improved by 1912, when assessment records indicate construction valued at \$500.¹ This early improvement was probably made by Thomas H. Unsworth who had purchased the lot from J. Harris Rogers, et. al. in May of 1912 (see Chain of Title). This early improvement was most likely the two small, one-story storefronts that appear on an early fire insurance map.²

The building's present two-story structure represents either an expansion of the early improvement or its replacement with a larger building, sometime after the January 1921 of the fire insurance map. For the years 1920-1923, Lot 20 continued to be assessed to Thomas Unsworth, although he sold the property to Pardo Iarrusso in December of 1921 (see Chain of Title). By 1920, the Unsworth assessment had risen to \$1,400 which may date the present building to those years.³ The historic commercial use of the two first story storefronts is not known at this time.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Assessment Records; 1912-1915, p. 137.

2 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map; 1921, p. 6.

3 Prince George's County Assessment Records; 1920-1923, p. 196.

Chain of Title
3807-3809-3811 34th Street
P.G.#68-13-4

6119:770
13 June 1985
Deed

Cheng and Julie Wang to J. B. and M. Y. Park.
Grantors convey Lot 20 in Block 1, Rhode Island
Avenue Addition to Mt. Rainier. Plat recorded
JWB 5:695 or A:6. Same obtained from Antonio J. and
Loretta C. Lombardi, 10 October 1980, 5327:101.

5327:101
10 October 1980
Deed

Antonio J. and Loretta C. Lombardi to Cheng and Julie
Wang. Grantors convey Lot 20 in Block 1. Same
obtained from Ronald R. Holden, agent, 26 June 1980,
5312:306.

5312:306
26 June 1980
Deed

Ronald R. Holden, agent, to Antonio J. and Loretta C.
Lombardi. Grantor conveys Lot 20 in Block 1. Same
obtained from Dean T. Lindsay, et al, 1 February
1978, 4885:552.

4885:552
1 February 1978
Deed

Antonio J. and Loretta C. Lombardi to Dean T.
Lindsay, grantee, and Dominion Enterprises, Inc.
Grantors convey Lot 20 in Block 1. Same obtained
from Cristoforo and Maria Litteri, 9 November 1936,
464:301.

464:301
9 November 1936
Deed

Cristoforo and Maria Litteri to Antonio J. and
Loretta C. Lombardi. Grantors convey Lot 20 in Block
1. Same obtained from Richard C. Zantzinger, et al,
trustees, 25 September 1936, 453:289.

453:289
25 September 1936
Deed

Richard C. Zantzinger, Antonio Mistretta, trustees,
Pardo and Bertha Iarusso (Errasso), to Cristoforo
Litteri. Grantors convey Lot 20 in Block 1. Same
obtained from Thomas H. and Minnie L. Unsworth, 19
December 1921, 178:273.

178:273
19 December 1921
Deed

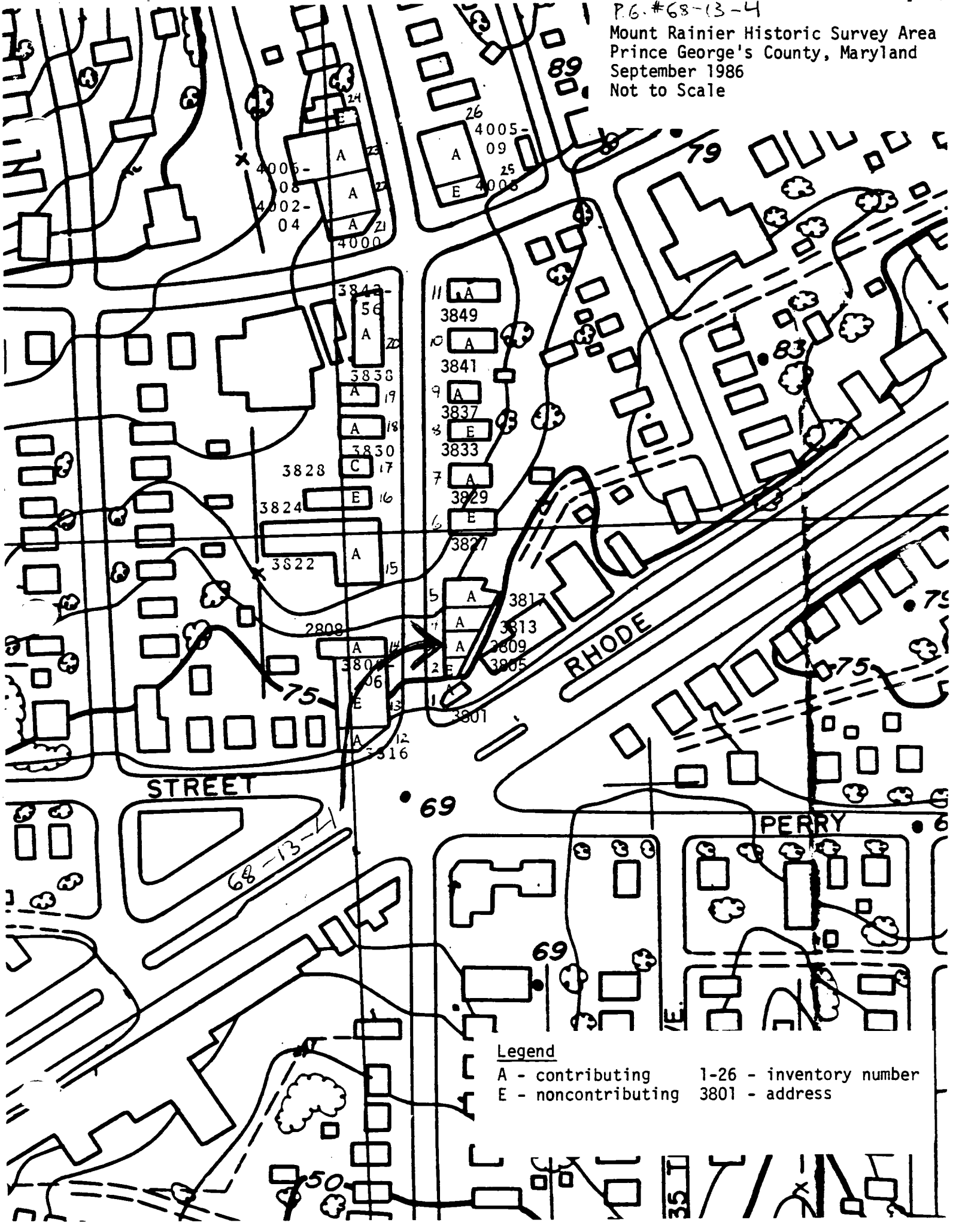
Thomas H. and Minnie L. Unsworth to Pardo and Bertha
Iarusso (Errasso). Grantors convey Lot 20 in Block 1.
Same obtained from J. Harris Rogers, et al, 24 May
1912, 82:316.

82:316
24 May 1912
Deed

J. Harris Rogers, James C. and Blanche R. Rogers to
Thomas H. Unsworth. Grantors convey Lot 20 in Block
1. To clear title, this deed is made.

P.G. #68-13-4

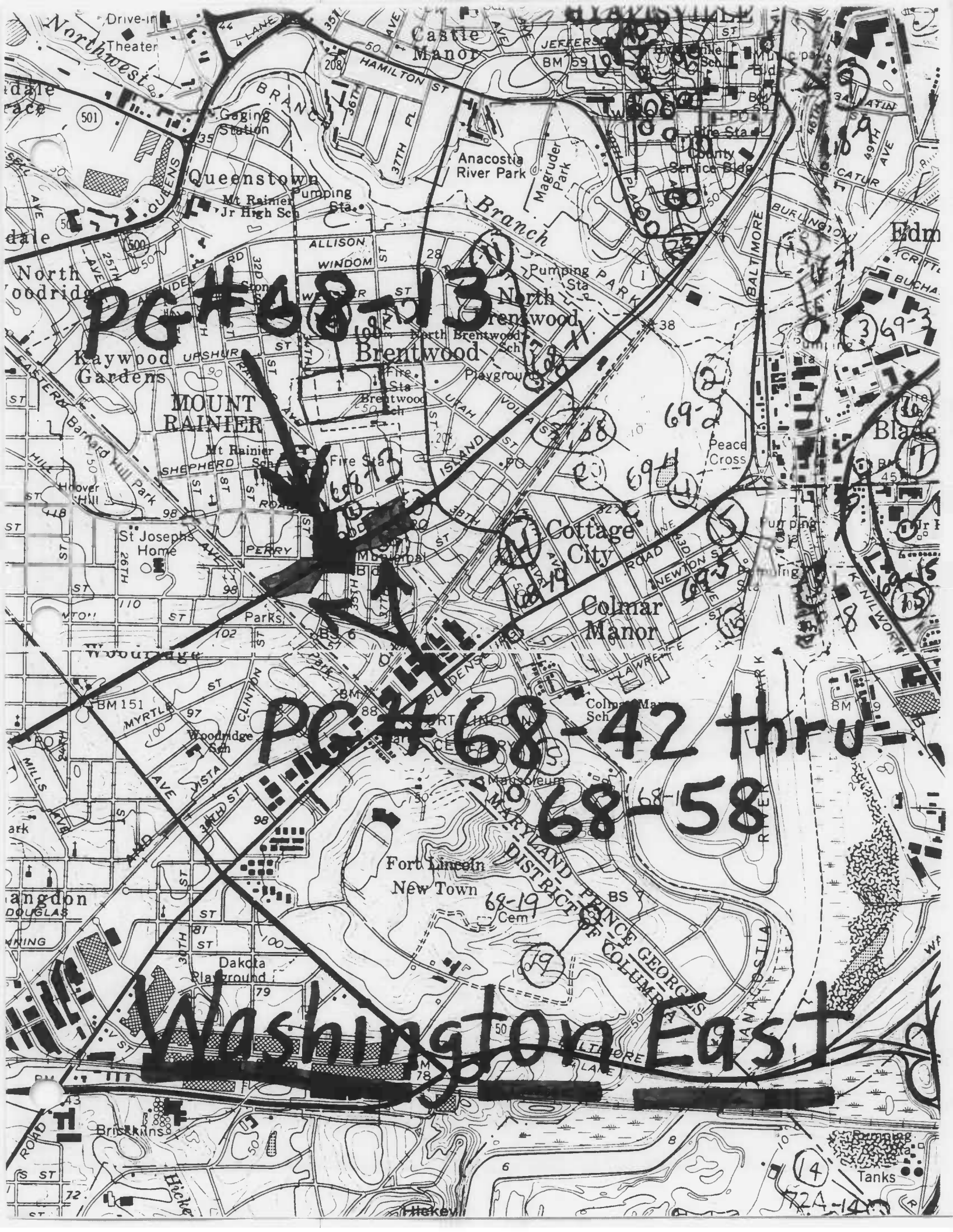
Mount Rainier Historic Survey Area
Prince George's County, Maryland
September 1986
Not to Scale



Legend

A - contributing 1-26 - inventory number
E - noncontributing 3801 - address





PG#68-13

PG#68-42 thru
68-58

Washington East